The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NWS LETTER

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

VOL. 7. NO. 39. WASHINGTON, D. C., SAURDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1917 WHOLE NO. 351

N. Y. LABOR SHORTAGE DENIED BY OFFICIAL

New York, Dec. 22.—In a public statement, Henry D. Sayer, state industrial commissioner, makes star denial that there is a labor shortage in this state and says that "the question is not so much one of labor shortage as it is one of poor distribution."

"There is plenty of labor," he continues, "and the only thing lacking upon to be in the places it is most needed. The fundamental difficulty at present is the failure to make proper contracts. It should be the effort to distribute contracts according to the labor market and thus to help to redistribute labor according to the ability of contractors to finish their contracts.

"The practice of advertising for more workmen than are needed is vicious in the extreme and in times like these should not be tolerated. The time and the productive labor lost through hundreds of men applying daily for jobs in response to such advertising is a source of serious waste."

On the subject of the employment of women in industry, Mr. Sayer says:

"Neither the working women, nor the working men, should be compelled to compete in the labor market with women who are forced to work because of the novelty of the job or because they have been led to believe that they are contributing a patriotic service.

"The time may come, and we must be prepared for it when it does come, when the labor of women in industry must be used on a larger scale than it is at present, but I venture the assertion that no women should be substituted for a man in the industrial process so long as there is available male labor to be procured.

"We will be very much enlightened if we permit our women to be exploited by factory owners, who, under the camouflage of an alleged labor shortage, seek to replace well paid men with underpaid women. There is no patriotism in that kind of shop management, and it contains the seeds of industrial unrest and disturbance."

CHILDREN UNDERFED.

New York, Dec. 22.—Of the 1,000,000 school children in this city, 110,000 are undernourished to the point of malnutrition, while the condition of 500,000 others is only "passable," according to Dr. Lissy Rose Marcuse, head of the children's division of the Post-Graduate hospital. In a public address she declared that "we read much of the malnutrition of children is caused by war prices and that the disparity between wage increases and the mounting cost of food has caused mothers to give up meat, milk and coffee instead of milk, which had increased from 9 to 15 cents a quart in the last year.

"In a report to the mayor by the bureau of personal service," he continued, "the statement is made that a family of five can live in New York in shame on $980 the year as compared with $840 in 1915. In 1915 half the married men in this city were found to be receiving $15 and less a week, while 417 was the average.

"It's effect of this upon the nutrition of mothers, who, under the present system of an alleged labor shortage, seek to replace well paid men with underpaid women, there is no patriotism in that kind of shop management, and it contains the seeds of industrial unrest and disturbance."

TABLES TURNED ON CRITICS.

Duluth, Minn., Dec. 22.—The claim that Minneapolis and St. Paul organized labor threatened a general strike for a "trivial thing" when these workers insisted on the right to street car men to wear their button, is answered by the Labor World, published in this city.

"If this matter is so inconsequential, why does the traction company, which is a member of the citizens' alliance, not wear the union insignia?" asks this paper.

"The fact is that part of the company is ample evidence that there is something else behind the fight on the part of the company than a matter of the public.

"Several months ago when organization was started among the employes and the holder ones joined the union, the company immediately launched a campaign of intimidation by employing thugs at the various cars to bump those who did not, mercilessly abuse and assault the union men. The latter were also penalized by not being allowed to work. The control of the company has shown its attitude antagonistic to organization and intolerant of the principle of collective bargaining."

"LABOR SHORTAGE" A MYTH.

Milwaukee, Dec. 22.—There is no shortage of labor in this city except highly skilled metal workers, says C. C. Hite, state inspector for the United States employment service, who makes this report:

"The labor situation in Milwaukee and immediate vicinity appears to be easy with respect to supply and demand of the lower grades, such as drill press hands and punch press operators. The supply of building trades men for building operations is well cared for. Supply is equal to the demand in case of men for ordinary set aside labor.

"There is, however, a steady demand for the employment of the higher grades, such as tool makers, tool blacksmiths, die sinkers, die makers, and all-around machinists. There appears to be rather acute shortage of men for ordinary bench work. The weather probably influences this condition, as at this season of the year workmen who are accustomed to outdoor work prefer to secure employment inside."

WAGES BOUND BY LAW.

Seattle, Dec. 22.—The legislative committee of the central labor council reports that the women's minimum wage law in this state is not to be employers to hold these workers to a bare minimum, which living wage. It is recommended that the council thank the commission from its "do nothing" position.

URGE U. S. WAGE INCREASE.

Washington, Dec. 22.—Congressman Keating, chairman of the house labor group, asks congress to increase the wages of federal employes.

The proposed increase will range from $60 a year for workers receiving less than $1,200 a year to $90 annually between $1,800 and $2,000. Increase for per diem workers are as follows: $2 a day between $4 a day; 60 cents; between $3 and $3.50 cents; between $3.50 and $4, 70 cents; between $4 and $4.50 cents; between $4.50 and $4, 80 cents.

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SIX MONTHS' STRIKE ENDS.

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COMPENSATION LAW IS BAD.

Austin, Tex., Dec. 22.—By amending the Texas compensation law the state legislature has given less protection to workers than any law of its kind, according to State Labor Commissioner Jennings.

MINNESOTA CIVIL WAR AVERTED BY WORKERS

Washington, Dec. 22.—Prompt action by Minneapolis and St. Paul trade unionists and A. F. of L. officials averted a general strike and a possible civil war in those cities. At the last minute A. F. of L. organizer Frank Morrison reached President Hall of the Minnesota state federation of labor over long distance telephone and told him that Secretary of War Baker had wired Secretary of Labor Wilson, chairman of the president's commission, now in Seattle, to stop at Minneapolis and St. Paul and investigate the strike. This was a powerful tempt to settle that street car dispute. The unionists then withdrew their strike order.

Last October street car men in these cities called a strike against the Twin City Rapid Transit company because 27 workers were discharged. These men were active in promoting the new union. The state public safety commission adjusted the strike by agreeing to investigate. Nearly all of the men were reinstated and the company was ordered to bargain collectively. The company disregarded this order and continued its victimization. The commission then appointed a committee to investigate complaints of the men and on the committee's recommended that the men remove their union button. Before the men were given an opportunity to vote on the recommendation the company locked out 1,900 of them. Then the commission made the recommendation a mandatory order, which resulted in the labor leaders calling out the eight-hour day, time and a half for overtime, double pay for Sunday and holidays. The observance of national and local holidays is approved and suggestion is made that wages should be made in proper relations to the cost of living.

"Contrast this policy with that of the political street general, as shown in his report to congress, 'Normal working conditions will be restored, and the war can not be won nor the world rebuilt under normal conditions. Notwithstanding the stress of the most critical period in our nation's history, it is regrettable to state that the organized postal employes are making many selfish demands and insisting that they shall not be required or permitted to work more than a certain number of hours; also that their salaries be permanently increased, although they are justly compensated, receiving more than three times as much as they received 15 years ago, who must of necessity suffer the hardships of warfare and sacrifice their all to conquer.'

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In his annual report Secretary of Labor Wilson makes this answer to that objection:

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U. S. Supreme Court Gives Hint to Anti-Union Employers

Washington, Dec. 22.—The "sacred-ness" of property rights was again emphasized to such a point by the United States supreme court, in the case of the Hitchman Coal and Coke company versus the United Mine Workers and the Eagle Glass and Manufacturing company versus the American Flint Glass Workers' union, that organization employers have a new weapon in their fight against organized labor.

These two concerns do business in West Virginia. They are avowedly non-union, and do not indulge in "open shop" camouflage or other tricky terms. Before a workman could secure employment in either of these plants he had to promise not to join the union, although it was agreed that this pledge could be broken by the workman quitting his employment any time he saw fit.

Later, several of these workers became interested in trade unionism and at the request of the companies an injunction was issued by Federal Judge Dayton court against officers of the miners' and glass workers' unions from attempting in any way to unionize these properties. The order was set aside by the federal court of appeals at Richmond, Va.

The United States supreme court refused to accept this decision, and, in effect, gives this hint to union employers everywhere:

"When a workman leaves your employment have him agree not join a trade union while employed by you. In getting you by a injunction process the court is not consider the equity thereby created, but will decide, in fact, whether the worker, because of home and family needs, is forced to accept an agreement which compels him to surrender constitutional rights that he may be fed. These contracts are inviolate, regardless of how or were obtained. The right to quit his employment in your union must be exercised as the law recognizes—to join a labor union."

In the mine decision, which was the most extensive, the court's persence in dealing only with things the surface as they affected the surface.

"The disordered condition of a mining town in time of war is a matter of common knowledge."

It is also stated that the Hitchman concern made a "gang" new men if a strike occurred "whether might be a reasonable apprehension of violence at the hands of the strikers and their sympathizers."

These reflections on striking trade unionists are significant when it is remembered that at the present time Baldwin-Felts gun men, employed by West Virginia mine operators, are in control of certain sections of that state and have killed and wounded several miners and other citizens. The recent report of the commission, appointed by the United States senate to investigate conditions in Cabin Creek and other sections of West Virginia, in which outrages of gun men and operators were recorded, is fresh in the public mind.

While acknowledging that the Hitchman company court, "due to the reasonable probability that by properly treating its employes and paying them their wages it could avoid unreasonable grounds of complaint, it will be able to retain them in its employment as vacancies occurring from time to time by the employment of other men is a matter of fact."

This alluring picture is shattered when it is recalled that some of the Hitchman miners, under intimidation or coercion, did attempt to join the union than their working conditions might be improved.

The court seems under the impression that employes are striking instead of the men directly interested, as it is stated:

"Upon all the facts we are constrained to hold that the purpose entertained by defendants to bring about a strike at plaintiff's mine in order to compel plaintiff, through fear of financial loss, to consent to the unionization of the mine as the lesser evil, was an unlawful purpose."

In fact, the court takes the same position—that organizers can call strikes, for it says against the American Flint Glass Workers' union "because the case involved the question of the rights of employes, and their right to quit their employment gave to defendants no right to institute a strike."

In this case the court repeated that the plaintiff was entitled to the aid of the courts to prevent interference with the good will of its employes and that to retain them in its employment vacancies occurring from time to time

DENIAL OF UNIONISM LEADS TO VIOLENCE

Washington, Dec. 22.—Where workers are denied rights by organization, trade unions they are driven to revolutionary movements; if workers are to be coerced, these plants should be seized by the government.

The above points are included in the annual report of Secretary of Labor Wilson, who deals with industrial unrest from the standpoint of fundamentals. He says:

"Almost insuperable obstacles arise, however, when labor disputes occur under circumstances in which employers permit organization by their workmen only on pain of dismissal. Whether so designed or not, the tendency of this policy is to prevent organization of labor; and inasmuch as in such cases workmen have no responsible business representatives, only one party to controversies can be conveniently or satisfactorily heard. In such cases, also, the workers, being prevented by their employers from organization on a business basis, tend to fall under the influence of the more radical elements in the revolutionary groups. As most labor disputes originate in labor organizations and to come under the care of revolutionary groups. As most labor disputes originate in labor organizations and to come under the care responsibility for it can not be wholly diverted from the policy—hardly restricted by the time of war—of voluntarily obstructing organization of labor which is so distinguished from the revolutionary type.

"The department is, of course, aware of proposals, much popular earlier in the war than now, to settle labor disputes by coercing wage earners. But these proposals are both unjust and impracticable. They are also widely unpopular. Without question they are unpatriotic. It is enough to say of them here that in the view of this department public sentiment will not be expected to tolerate conscription of labor while that of capital is left free to be considered one-sided would be desirable. It would seem only fair that workers be conscripted for industrial purposes—that the working opportunities which they were to be assigned ought to be commandeered, so as to make such workers 'not coerced servants of employers but employes of the government itself.'

"SOLVING" WAGE DEMAND.

Chicago, Dec. 22.—The Aurora, Elgin and Chicago interurban railroad has "solved" the wage demand of its employes by establishing a compulsory service in the last four years the company has increased wages one-half cent an hour and has made it five times. The Union Leader, published by organized street car men in this city, says that this is an "ideal" way to settle the matter, while the nine operators are declaring that a contract so exacted was not binding, more especially when the provisions contained included the surrender of rights guaranteed by the constitution and by every expression of the will of the people of this country.

In the case of the Aurora, Elgin and Chicago company, or of any employing corporation, did the men have to surrender our right to organize. We may have to suffer fail.

In the meantime radical action at this time would be ill-advised. We must not jeopardize the interests of any part of a country at war with a powerful foe. We feel, however, as did Lincoln, that there is no time or inclination to precipitate an effective fight at this time has been refused in the face of the most unjust and provocative decisions that have been handed down against us."

MOCK PATRIOTS RAMPANT.

Denver, Dec. 22.—The Miners' Magazine, official journal of the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, publishes this notice in its current issue:

"Keep away from Arizona as there are large numbers of men out of work at Globe, Miami, Clifton, Morenci and Bisbee, while the mine operators are discharging men at Bisbee and the 'Loyalty' leagues are active in their unpatriotic work. The refusal of copper operators to abide by a settlement of strikes in that state, which were made possible by the president's mediation commission, is responsible for these conditions.

It is charged that the Inspiration mine has refused to sign an agreement at Miami, has made no move toward observing the letter or spirit of the agreement. A month after the president's commission left the district, the Inspiration mine discharged its working force over 30 per cent.

LOW WAGES BRING DEATH.

Washington, Dec. 22.—In eight cities of the United States the public children's bureau 28 per cent of the fathers earned less than $600 a year, while 50 per cent of their babies was 142.5 or one in every six. Only about one-eighth, or less than one per cent, of the fathers earned $1,250 or more, and the death rate for their babies was 62.5, or one in 16.

The combined figures for the eight cities, which include industrial centers and large manufacturing institutions, show that the mortality under one year of age among children whose fathers earn incomes of $1,250 or over is less than two-fifths that of babies whose fathers earn less than $750 a year.

STRIKERS REDUCE HOURS.

Kendallville, Ind., Dec. 21.—Strikers employed by the Kendallville Products company have accepted the company's offer to reduce the work day from 10 to nine hours, and the union's grievance committees and to raise wages from 18 per cent up. The agreement was signed by the entire employes was followed by similar action in other plants, with the result that hour reductions and wage increases in this city have been general the last few months.

PHONE GIRLS STRIKE.

Jacksonville, Fla., Dec. 21.—Phone girls employed by the Southern Bell Telephone company struck today in an effort to get a higher wage scale. The girls were unorganized, but have since formed a local union affiliated with the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Local trade unionists are aiding the girls in their struggle. A successful parade to advertise their movement.

AUGUSTA RAISES WAGES.

Augusta, Ga., Dec. 21.—The city council has just passed an ordinance for the police, fire, street and manager departments.

45,000 WORKERS INJURED.

Hartford, Conn., Dec. 21.—Over 45,000 workers were injured in this state during the year ending November 30, according to the annual report of the state labor commissioner. Of this number 1,000 were killed outright. The report covers a period of three years.

MODERN CONDITIONS IGNORED BY P. O. CHIEF

Washington, Dec. 22.—The Union Postal Employe, official magazine of the National Federation of Postal Employes, makes this comment on Postmaster General Burleson's opposition to working standards that are accepted by other governmental departments:

"The secretary of war has issued a general order to arsenal superintendents and manufacturers of war munitions, which virtually operates as a government standard for labor of the eight-hour day, time and a half for overtime, double pay for Sunday and holidays. The observance of national and local holidays is approved and suggestion is made that wages should be made in proper relations to the cost of living.

"Contrast this policy with that of the political general, as shown in his report to congress, 'Normal working conditions will be restored, and the war can not be won nor the world rebuilt under normal conditions. Notwithstanding the stress of the most critical period in our nation's history, it is regrettable to state that the organized postal employes are making many selfish demands and insisting that they shall not be required or permitted to work more than a certain number of hours; also that their salaries be permanently increased, although they are justly compensated, receiving more than three times as much as they received 15 years ago, who must of necessity suffer the hardships of warfare and sacrifice their all to conquer.

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PIECE WORK AN EVIL.

New York, Dec. 22.—The Ladies' Garment Worker, official organ of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union, has this to say of the piece work evil:

"The piece worker in the cloak trade is the slave of the slave. He who stakes his all in a game of chance, such as the gambler is dependent on chance, or he deals it. 'luck,' so the piece worker is dependent on many circumstances, and he must constantly keep his eyes fixed on them that the no not get to be the masters. The piece worker has to look to a real, sensible and courageous price committee, which will guarantee him from the mistake while estimating he price of a given garment, and from such a chain of circumstances over which the piece worker has no control. For many times it happens that he is not he amenable to reason, he might be ill at ease just at the time when the price being settled, or right behind the door a sub-manufacturer might be waiting ready to undersell him the work at any price.

"All these untoward circumstances are so many 'unlucky cards' in the game of bargaining over prices. But under a system of week work and a minimum scale, it would be next necessary to take any chances. All the unlucky cards disappear. The weekly wage is set at stake. For this reason alone piece workers ought to exert every nerve and effort for the introduction of week work which would give them an easier life, more leisure, more time for participation in the ranks, assure a better and more efficient control in the shops and, in general, forward a more stronger union and a brighter future."

PUBLIC LANDS TO BE OPENED.

Washington, Dec. 22.—Hundreds of thousands of acres of land in the United States hitherto untilled may be opened to settlers before March 1, 1918. By direction of Secretary of the Interior Lane, acting in response to a resolution of congress, a survey was made into the feasibility of reclaiming the arid and semi-arid parts of the public domain and Indian lands. The results indicate that large areas of land may profitably be used for cultivation. About 10,000 acres are ready for immediate opening 1918. In addition, there are 500,000 acres of privately owned irrigated land within reclamation projects that can be cultivated. Plenty water for irrigation now provides money for the clearing, development and cropping of the lands, this money to be returned to the government from rentals and other receipts.

UNION CHANGES NAME.

Houston, Tex., Dec. 22.—At the convention of the International Union of United Brewery Workmen it was voted to change the name to the Amalgamated to the International Union of the United Brewery and Soft Drink Workers of America, which includes all malt, yeast, cereal beverages, denatured alcohol and mineral water workers is claimed, subject to approval by the A. F. of L.

Hereafter there shall be signed for more than two years by affiliated locals. An eight-hour day and a week's vacation with pay are provided. The next convention will be held once every three years instead of two years. Strike benefits were increased from $5 to $9 a week and the salaries of international secretaries was increased from $30 to $35 a week. Cincinnati was selected as the next convention city.

THEORY VERSUS PRACTICE.

Stockton, Cal., Dec. 22.—The Merchants' association is opposed to the boycott—when favored by trade unionists, but employers' association is different matter. Members of the association, however, are advised:

"Keep your shop open with your patronage, and this spirit, with action, goes a long ways in sustaining the employers' association. Before you go to buy anything consider your printed membership list."

BOOKBINDERS GAIN.

Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 22.—Organized bookbinders have adjusted differences with their employers, both parties having signed contracts providing for improved working conditions.

New York, Dec. 22.—Organized bindery girls are being assisted by the Women's Trade Union league in a campaign. The girls have been successful in increasing rates in a week in several instances.

MEAT CUTTERS ADVANCE.

Bloomington, Ill., Dec. 22.—With an organization less than two years old the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen have a 10% per cent union and signed contracts with every meat establishment in the city.

PRINTING TRADES GAIN.

Canton, Ohio, Dec. 22.—Organized printers, pressmen and bookbinders have signed new contracts with employers. Wage increases average 10 per cent.

WILL PROBE SPECULATORS.

Washington, Dec. 22.—At the request of Food Administrator Hoover, the federal trade commission is looking into the profiteers who order goods beyond their requirement on a rising market in the hope that they will continue to rise they can make money, and if prices fall they can protect themselves by refusing to accept the order. The commission cites this typical method employed by unprincipled traders and dealer:

"A in Minnesota receives a telegraphic order from B in Pennsylvania for a carload of potatoes. Any other perishable could be given as an example) at a certain price. A ships the potatoes which is in good condition and up to grade at the time of the shipment. On arrival of the car B refuses to accept shipment in Indiana the price of potatoes has fallen. B rejects the shipment and refuses payment of the draft which accompanied the bill of lading, which A, unwilling that B should profit by his fraud, turns over to the consignee. B is thus enabled to buy potatoes at a much lower price, and A is compelled to 'eat' or 'dispose' of the potatoes at a loss as much if not more than if B had settled with B."

FORM VIGILANTE BANDS.

New York, Dec. 22.—The American Defense Society has issued a plan for organizing a vigilance corps in every city and town in the United States. At a meeting of five to 10 prominent citizens each person present is asked to form a committee of 100 and a list of all voters at the last election secured. This list is then voted on, with four columns, "loyal," "disloyal," "doubtful" and "unknown." One negative vote, or "disloyal" vote, or "doubtful" puts the name in the "doubtful" or "unknown" column. These names will then be brought before the entire committee and "loyal" or "disloyal" as stated.

It is stated that the vigilance committees being formed all over the country. They are intended to handle matters which are considered unsuitable under the federal department of justice and include seditious street meetings, agitation in labor and anti-draft publications, the political situation "and other conditions similar to these." The vigilance corps may assume unwarranted powers where employes strike against poor working conditions.

CORRECT EXCITED PATRIOT.

Houston, Tex., Dec. 22.—The Typographical union suggests to Dr. Fyfe, of Dallas, Texas, member of the federal board of appeals, that he ascertain the facts before rushing into print with his views on strikers if they appear before his board.

In the letter to Dr. Fyfe Dr. Smith is applauded by anti-unionists when he threatened these workers.

Now the Typographical union's public the report of J. J. Barrett, a federal investigator, who attempted to settle the strike.

"I have conferred with the operators and the union grievance committee, and today have wired Washington that I have failed in an effort to get them to arbitrate and am awaiting orders. The operators refuse to treat with union men and I refuse to arbitrate with the operators' association is opposed to the strike, which I thought might be made acceptable to the men, but the operators refused to entertain the proposition."

UNION CONTRACT SIGNED.

Pittsburg, Kas., Dec. 22.—The Pittsburg coal mine machine shop has signed a union-shop agreement with the Machinists' union.

Aurora, Ill., Dec. 22.—A vigorous campaign has been waged against the American Wood Working company has been adjusted and the company has signed a new grievance committee, rate wages, case discriminations, nine hours to constitute a week day with time and one-half for overtime.

WORKERS' WAGE REDUCED.

Fort River, Mo., Dec. 22.—Last year the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers attempted to organize the miners of this district but were given scant attention by these employes. This indifference on the workers' part seems to have now reduced wages 75 cents a day.

BIG PROFITS IN THEATERS.

Philadelphia, Dec. 22.—In a law suit between Lee Shubert and Erlanger and the Shuberts, theatrical managers, it was shown that Erlanger and the Shuberts divided net profits of $650,000 from five theaters in this city.

PAINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Rochester, N. Y., Dec. 22.—Organized painters and paper hangers have prepared a new wage scale for 1918. The scale calls for $5.20 a day with a work week of 44 hours.

MATTRESS MAKERS UNITE.

Dallas, Tex., Dec. 22.—Mattress makers in this city have organized and affiliated with the United Brotherhood of Carpenters.

MILITARY COERCION OPPOSED BY BAKER

Washington, Dec. 22.—Secretary of War Baker opposes "universal training," the soft-pedal term for forcing citizens into the military service.

In his annual report, the war secretary says:

"The department has not sought, and does not now seek, legislation on the subject of universal military service, the formation of a permanent military policy will inevitably be a matter of serious concern, dependent upon the termination of the present war. Civilized nations have long felt that there has in store a relief from the burden of armament and the destruction and waste of war.

"However vain that hope may appear to be, it has found its most devastating and destructive war in the history of the race, it persists—perhaps because all the more intensely—in the analogous substitution of courts for force in the settlement of private controversies; perhaps because all the perfections of nature teach us that the end is the product of processes which have eliminated waste and substituted constructive for destructive principles.

"When a permanent military policy, therefore, come to be adopted it will doubtless be conceived in a spirit which will be adequate to preserve against its possible attack those vital principles of liberty upon which democratic institutions are based, and to be so related to the event to foster the growth of mere militarist ambition, but to be in accordance with the sentiments of nations with whom it is our first desire to live in harmonious and just accord."

WOULD CONSCRIPT WEALTH.

Williamsport, Pa., Dec. 22.—The report of the legislative committee appointed by governor Brumbaugh to investigate the high cost of living was made public today as well as men was demanded.

"The man with an income of $1,000 a year should be required to give a proportion of that sum every year to the government without sacrifice and certainly without pain, for he would at least $100,000 can give up all over that without sacrifice. The government, by the selective draft law, has taken our young men and it is only right and just that the state should conscript the wealth of the United States to help win the war."

The present policy of a graduated income tax, in the opinion of the committee, would not only give the government needed revenue at this time, but would do away with the manmouth fortunes which the committee believes are a menace to the happiness and prosperity of the United States.

URGES HIGHER RATES.

Washington, Dec. 22.—A. F. of L. Secretary Frank Morrison appeared before the interstate commerce commission this week to urge higher wage rates for government post office employes. Mr. Morrison's representations of the Buffalo convention of the A. F. of L. These employes, including 200,000 clerks, letter carriers, railway mail clerks and post office printers. The A. F. of L. resolutions be considered in the light of increased living costs. Printers in the bureau of engraving and printers have not received consideration due them. He showed surplus, according to a public statement by the postmaster general, is $8,336,000, a record surplus in the history of the government."

R. R. STRIKES ARE RARE.

Washington, Dec. 22.—The railroad strike "epidemic" is discounted in a report by the federal board of mediation and conciliation, which says that the number of interstate railroad service by labor disputes has been almost negligible since the board was organized four years ago.

BIG PROFITS IN COAL.

Philadelphia, Dec. 22.—The Delaware, Lackawanna & Western railroad company declared a dividend of 50 per cent. Six months ago this company declared a dividend of 50 per cent. Six months ago this company declared a dividend of 50 per cent on the $6,500,000 capital stock, upon which the regular dividend is 10 per cent.

CHILD LABOR COSTLY

Olympia, Wash., Dec. 22.—The state industrial commission has settled a claim of Mrs. Mary Porter for $4,000 for the death of her son, a saw mill owner, near Thorp. The fine was imposed because the boy, aged 15, was 10 by a 17-year-old boy whose arm was cut off by a saw in Porter's plant.

CUTTERS RAISE WAGES.

Portland, Ore., Dec. 22.—Children's dress cutters have secured an increase of $1 a week as a result of a settlement between employers. These workers are affiliated with the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union.

MILL WORKERS STRIKE.

Portland, Ore., Dec. 22.—About 300 employes of the Portland Gas & Coke Manufacturing company are on strike for increased wages. The company is willing to arbitrate the matter, but the men refuse.

COURT'S RULE BASED ON "HOARY SUPERSTITION"

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 22.—William M. Reedy, editor of Reedy's Mirror, making this comment on the United States supreme court's decision (in the Hitchman-Mine Workers' case) that organized workers can be enjoined if they solicit an employe to join their union when he has made an agreement to the contrary:

"The gravamen of the new offense is that it is an inducement to workers to break free contracts. The law may be all right, but that hoary superstition of the world's mark's freedom of contract should be cast into the limbo of forgotten things. This new ruling will put an end to picketing. It will prevent men from reasoning with men who may have taken their places on strike. The court's theory is that picketing and propaganda is dangerous more to hurt employers than to help unionism. This is a very fine distinction indeed. It gives the employer full swing in enforcing contracts against employes forbidding them from joining labor unions. We may hear from this decision in uncomfortable fashion before we are out of the war. I express the point of view of the newer economics and sociology the decision is distinctly and decidedly reactionary."

CONTRACT WAS FORCED.

Indianapolis, Dec. 22.—The United States supreme court held, in the Hitchman-Mine Workers' case, that it is unlawful for A. F. of L. men to organize this mine, as the company had a contract with its employes to remain out of the union.

The United Mine Workers' Journal says:

"This pledge was exacted from men imported as strikebreakers and some of them were forced back to work after a lost strike. Every old-timer among the mine workers will remember when like contracts were presented to them and their necessities compelled them to acquiesce, with mental reservations.

"We held then, as we hold now, that such pledge was exacted from us under duress; that a contract so exacted was not binding, more especially when the provisions contained included the surrender of rights guaranteed by the constitution and by every expression of the will of the people of this country.

"The case of the U. S. Hitchman Coal company, or of any employing corporation, did not the right to surrender our right to organize. We may have to suffer fail.

"In the meantime radical action at this time would be ill-advised. We must not jeopardize the interests of any part of a country at war with a powerful foe. We feel, however, as did Lincoln, that there is no time or inclination to precipitate an effective fight at this time has been refused in the face of the most unjust and provocative decisions that have been handed down against us."

BOILER MAKERS GAIN.

Minneapolis, Dec. 22.—In an agreement signed by the Minneapolis, St. Paul and Duluth members of the International Brotherhood of Boiler Makers' union has established the highest helper rates of any trade in the country, and the highest helper apprentice rates in the country.

In all the Minneapolis shops these workers voted unanimously to discontinue the apprentice system and made it possible to earn higher wages—and incidentally undermine their health.

STRIKE ENDS.

Scranton, Pa., Dec. 22.—Wage increases of 28 to 13 cents an hour have been secured by organized workers in the plants of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western railroad.

In the last few months three unions of these workers employed in railroad shops have been organized.

EMPLOYERS ON TRIAL.

Jersey City, N. J., Dec. 22.—Officers of the Detwiler and Street Manufacturing company are on trial in the district court of this city in connection with the death of Ruth Rogers, one of the 16 girls who died as a result of poisoning by grinning powder on April 4 last. The prosecutor told the jury that the firm made numerous false returns of its business to the bureau of internal revenue of the Russian government. The defendants are charged with criminal carelessness in conducting against friction, which caused the flare-up. This is said to be the first time in the state that these employers have been charged with manslaughter in the death of an employe.

UNUSUAL COMPENSATION.

Madison, Wis., Dec. 22.—The state industrial commission recognizes the right of contracts to employ a disabled roof, and has awarded an employe of the Holt Lumber company of Oconto the maximum compensation.

While sleeping in a bunk a straw mattress caught fire from a stove and lodged in the throat of Sam Robson. The straw could not be removed and Robson was taken to a hospital for a month's treatment.

DYERS TRICK THEMSELVES.

Stour City, Iowa, Dec. 22.—Organized dyers and cleaners and pressers and dyers, who have been on a strike for several weeks, have won their fight for increased wages by their employers, but when the lockout was declared by the employers the union shop they abrogated the agreement.

7-DAY WEEK ABOLISHED.

Pittsburg, Kas., Dec. 22.—The city industrial commission recognizes the right of contracts to employ a disabled roof, and has awarded an employe of the Holt Lumber company of Oconto the maximum compensation.

While sleeping in a bunk a straw mattress caught fire from a stove and lodged in the throat of Sam Robson. The straw could not be removed and Robson was taken to a hospital for a month's treatment.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Beaver, Pa., Dec. 22.—Printing employes in this county have been granted a wage increase of $2 a week, making the scale $20 a week. The scale was formerly $18 a week. The increase affects about 25 to 30 workers. The scale has been in force for three years.